

### IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Original) A system for facilitating processing and disposition of a transaction within an access controlled environment, comprising:

an access control facility accessible via a global data processing network and configured to maintain user information, and to permit or deny a user to enter an access controlled environment within a data processing environment and to perform user operations within said access controlled environment;

a transaction management facility operable within said access controlled environment, coupled to said access control facility, and configured to store and maintain transaction data based on said transaction, said user operations, and a security scheme;

an authentication facility operable within said access controlled environment and configured to authenticate said transaction data based on an authentication scheme corresponding to said transaction; and

a billing facility configured to consolidate data related to internal operations performed by said access control facility, said transaction management facility, and said authentication facility to generate and process billing data and to send a billing notice to a responsible party via said global data processing network.

2. (Original) The system according to claim 1, wherein said global data processing network is the Internet.

3. (Original) The system according to claim 1, wherein said access control facility includes a user registration facility permitting a user to be registered based on predetermined registration criteria prior to permitting said user to access said access controlled environment.

4. (Original) The system according to claim 1, wherein said access control facility permits or denies access based on a user identifier and a user password.
5. (Original) The system according to claim 1, wherein said access control facility is further configured to notify said responsible party when a user is denied access to said access controlled environment.
6. (Original) The system according to claim 1, wherein said transaction management facility is configured to store and maintain said transaction data based on the type of said transaction.
7. (Original) The system according to claim 1, wherein said transaction management facility is further configured to generate internal tracking data corresponding to said user operations within said access controlled environment.
8. (Original) The system according to claim 1, wherein said transaction management facility further comprises at least one analysis tool configured to be used by said user to analyze said transaction data within said access controlled environment to facilitate disposition of said transaction.
9. (Original) The system according to claim 1, wherein said transaction management facility stores said transaction data in a plurality of formats corresponding to transaction party systems maintained by outside of said access controlled environment.
10. (Original) The system according to claim 1, wherein said security scheme corresponds to a predetermined data encryption scheme.
11. (Original) The system according to claim 1, wherein said security scheme is set by said user.

12. (Original) The system according to claim 1, wherein said security scheme is set automatically based on the type of said transaction.
13. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim [[14]] 1, wherein said authentication scheme corresponds to rules of evidence.
14. (Original) The system according to claim 1, wherein said authentication scheme is established by said user.
15. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 1, wherein said authentication scheme is automatically set by said authentication ~~system~~ facility based on the type of said transaction.
16. (Original) The system according to claim 1, wherein said authentication facility further authenticates said transaction data based said user's identity.
17. (Original) The system according to claim 1, wherein said authentication facility further authenticates said transaction data based biometric data related to said user.
18. (Original) The system according to claim 1, wherein said authentication facility further authenticates said transaction data based forensic data related to said transaction.
19. (Original) The system according to claim 1, wherein said authentication facility further authenticates said transaction data base on forensic data related to said user.
20. (Original) The system according to claim 1, wherein said authentication facility authenticates said transaction data prior to said transaction management facility storing and maintaining said data.

21. (Original) The system according to claim 1, wherein said authentication facility authenticates said transaction data after said transaction management facility stores and maintains said data.
22. (Currently Amended) The system ~~authentication~~ according to claim 1, wherein said authentication facility requires said user to enter authentication data related to said transaction data and authenticates said transaction data based upon said authentication data.
23. (Original) The system according to claim 1, wherein said billing facility generates a billing record related to said user operations within said access controlled environment.
24. (Original) The system according to claim 1, wherein said transaction management facility is further configured to automatically notify said user based upon a change to said transaction data.
25. (Original) The system according to claim 24, wherein said transaction management facility notifies said user via an automatically generated electronic mail message.
26. (Original) The system according to claim 25, wherein said automatically generated electronic mail message contains a reference to said transaction based on a predetermined level of vagueness.

27. (Original) A system for facilitating transaction processing and disposition within an access controlled environment, comprising:

an access control facility accessible via a global data processing network and configured to maintain user information and to permit or deny users to login into an access controlled environment maintained within a data processing environment, said user information including a profile relating to each user of said users, each said profile including a user-specific level of security;

a transaction management facility operable within said access controlled environment, coupled to said access control facility, and configured to store and maintain data related to a transaction involving at least one of said users based on a predetermined security level to facilitate disposition of said transaction within said access controlled environment, and to determine accessibility related to said data for said each user based on said each user's profile;

an authentication facility operable within said access controlled environment and configured to authenticate said data related to said transaction based on a predetermined authentication level set to correspond to said transaction;

a connectivity and communications facility coupled to said access control facility, said transaction management facility, and said authentication facility, said connectivity and communications facility configured to communicate with said access control facility, said transaction management facility, said authentication facility, and external transaction party systems to facilitate disposition of said transaction based on said data stored and maintained by said transaction management facility; and

a billing facility configured to consolidate data related to internal operations performed by said access control facility, said transaction management facility, and said authentication facility to generate and process billing data and to send a billing notice to a responsible party via said global data processing network.

28-50 (Canceled).

51. (Original) A system for facilitating transaction processing and disposition within an access controlled environment, comprising:

a plurality of user systems, each user system generating and processing data related to a transaction involving a plurality of parties; and

a controlled access environment operating within a secure data processing system, said secure data processing system coupled to said plurality of user system via a global data processing network, said controlled access environment including a data store for storing and maintaining said data related to said transaction involving said multiple parties, an access control facility for permitting and denying said plurality of user systems to access said access controlled environment during the course of said transaction, an authentication system for authenticating said data within said data store, and a communications facility for notifying said user systems based on said data and for permitting said data processing system to securely interact with externally coupled systems to facilitate disposition of said transaction involving.

52-69. (Canceled).

70. (Original) A method for facilitating transaction processing and disposition within an access controlled environment, comprising the steps of:

at an access control facility accessible via a global data processing network, maintaining user information and permitting or denying a user to login into an access controlled environment maintained within a data processing environment;

at a transaction management facility coupled to said access control facility, storing and maintaining data related to a transaction based on a predetermined security level to facilitate disposition of said transaction within said access controlled environment;

at an authentication facility, authenticating said data related to said transaction based on a predetermined authentication level;

at a billing facility, consolidating data related to internal operations performed by said access control facility, said transaction management facility, and said authentication facility; and

at said billing facility, generating and processing said billing data and sending a billing notice to a responsible party via said global data processing network.

71-91. (Canceled).

92. (Original) A method for facilitating transaction processing and disposition within an access controlled environment, comprising the steps of:

at a user system operated by a user, accessing an access control facility via a global data processing network, said access control facility configured to maintain user information related to said user;

permitting or denying said user system operable access to an access controlled environment maintained within a data processing environment based on a profile related to said user including a user-specific level of security;

at a transaction management facility coupled to said access control facility and operating within said access controlled environment, storing and maintaining data related to a transaction involving said user based on a predetermined security level to facilitate disposition of said transaction within said access controlled environment, said transaction management facility determining accessibility related to said data for said user based on said user's profile;

at an authentication facility operating within said access control environment, authenticating said data related to said transaction based on a predetermined authentication level set to correspond to said transaction;

at a communication facility coupled to said access control facility, said transaction management facility said authentication facility, and operating within said access controlled environment, communicating with external systems to facilitate disposition of said transaction based on said data stored and maintained by said transaction management facility; and

at a billing facility operating within said access controlled environment, consolidating data related to internal operations performed by said access control facility, said transaction management facility, and said authentication facility, generating and processing billing data, and sending a billing notice based on said billing data to a responsible party via said global data processing network.

93-115. (Canceled).

116. (Original) A method for facilitating processing and disposition of a dispute involving a plurality of transaction parties within an access controlled environment, comprising the steps of:

at an access control facility accessible via a global data processing network, creating and maintaining user security profiles related to said plurality of transaction parties;

at said access control facility, permitting or denying a user to login into an access controlled environment maintained within a data processing environment based upon said user and at least one of said user security profiles corresponding to said user;

if said user is permitted to login, at said access control facility, providing operative access to said user to a transaction management facility operating within said access controlled environment and configured to store and maintain data related to disputes;

at said transaction management facility, permitting user to create, update and delete transaction data based on said dispute and a predetermined security level to facilitate disposition of said transaction within said access controlled environment;

at an authentication facility, requiring said user to enter authentication data related to said transaction data in order to authenticate said transaction data based on a predetermined authentication scheme;

at said transaction management facility, permitting said user to enter said authentication data;

at said transaction management facility, notifying said user if a decision needs to be made based on said transaction data and/or said authentication data;

at said transaction management facility, allowing said user to enter a decision in order to dispose of said dispute;

at a communications facility, notifying said plurality of transaction parties of said decision via said global data network;

at a billing facility, consolidating data related to internal operations performed by said access control facility, said transaction management facility, and said authentication facility; and

at said billing facility, generating and processing said billing data and sending a billing notice to at least one of said transaction parties via said global data processing network.



117-136. (Canceled).

137. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 70, further comprising:

at the access control facility accessible via a global data processing network, creating and maintaining user security profiles related to a plurality of transaction parties;

at the access control facility, permitting or denying a user to login into the access controlled environment maintained within the data processing environment based upon the user and at least one of the user security profiles corresponding to the user;

if the user is permitted to login, at the access control facility, providing operative access to the user to the transaction management facility operating within the access controlled environment and configured to store and maintain data related to disputes;

at the transaction management facility, permitting the user to create, update and delete transaction data based on the dispute and a predetermined security level to facilitate disposition of the transaction within the access controlled environment;

at the authentication facility, requiring the user to enter authentication data related to the transaction data in order to authenticate the transaction data based on a predetermined authentication scheme;

at the transaction management facility, permitting the user to enter the authentication data;

at the transaction management facility, notifying the user if a decision needs to be made based on the transaction data and/or the authentication data;

at the transaction management facility, allowing the user to enter a decision in order to dispose of the dispute;

at a communications facility, notifying the plurality of transaction parties of the decision via the global data network;

at the billing facility, consolidating data related to internal operations performed by the access control facility, the transaction management facility, and the authentication facility; and at the billing facility, generating and processing the billing data and sending a billing notice to at least one of the transaction parties via the global data processing network.

138. (New) The system according to claim 1, wherein said authentication facility receives metadata used to authenticate said transaction data, automatically evaluates the transaction data using the metadata to obtain a result of the authentication, and stores the result within the transaction management facility.

139. (New) The system according to claim 1, wherein said authentication facility receives metadata used to authenticate said transaction data, determines whether said business matter data can be automatically authenticated, and if not, then presents said metadata to a decision maker for producing a decision on the authenticity of said business matter data.